

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A unitary membrane for use in a pressing apparatus, comprising:
a continuous belt having a predetermined total permeability;
a pair of impermeable longitudinal edge portions on said belt; and
a semipermeable portion having a plurality of intercommunicating pores, said

5 semipermeable portion being positioned on said belt between said pair of impermeable
longitudinal edge portions,

wherein said unitary membrane comprises a formed fabric, said unitary membrane having
a thickness less than about 0.1 inches, and wherein said semipermeable portion is both gas and
liquid permeable, and has a total permeability greater than zero and less than about five CFM per
10 square foot as measured by TAPPI test method TIP 0404-20.

2. (previously presented) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said semipermeable
portion has a total permeability greater than zero and less than about two CFM per square foot as
measured by TAPPI test method TIP 0404-20.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said total permeability is
determined by at least one of a size, a shape, a frequency and a pattern of a plurality of pores in
said semipermeable portion.

4. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said pair of longitudinal edge
portions are tapered such that a cross-section of said unitary membrane has a trapezoidal shape.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said formed fabric forms a flow resistance layer near a surface of said unitary membrane.

7. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 6, wherein said unitary membrane further comprises a fluid distribution layer adjacent said flow resistance layer.

8. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, further comprising a surface which is abrasion resistant.

9. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said semipermeable portion has a void percentage of less than 40 percent.

10-19. (cancelled)